

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

-v.-

JOHN DOE, *subscriber assigned IP address*
173.56.54.232,

Defendant.
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ORDER

20-CV-7919 (LTS) (JLC)

JAMES L. COTT, United States Magistrate Judge.

In this copyright infringement case, plaintiff Strike 3 Holdings, LLC moves *ex parte* for leave to serve a third-party subpoena on the internet service provider of defendant John Doe, pursuant to Rule 26(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff seeks discovery prior to a Rule 26(f) conference in order to ascertain defendant's identity. This Court has been presented with the same application by Strike 3 in two prior cases (the only difference being the IP address number alleged to be involved), and in each one granted the application. *See Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. Doe*, No. 19-CV-5818 (AT) (JLC), 2019 WL 5459693 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 9, 2019); *Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. Doe*, No. 19-CV-1651 (AT) (JLC), 2019 WL 1211864 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 15, 2019). Accordingly, rather than issue another opinion

on the subject, the Court instead incorporates its analysis from its prior decisions and, for the same reasons, grants this application.¹

Consistent with the practice in this District, the Court will also issue a protective order in connection with the subpoena, “in light of the substantial risk for false positive identifications that could result in ‘annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense.’” *Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. Doe*, No. 18-CV-12167 (AJN), 2019 WL 340712, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 24, 2019) (quoting Rule 26(c)(1)).

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1) Strike 3 may serve a Rule 45 subpoena immediately on Verizon Fios (“Verizon”), the ISP identified in its motion, to obtain the name and current and/or permanent address of the John Doe subscriber associated with the IP address 173.56.54.232. Strike 3 shall not request any additional information, including, but not limited to, email address or telephone number. Strike 3 shall include a copy of this Order (as well as a copy of the Court’s October 9, 2019 decision, since it has

¹ As I have previously observed, Strike 3 is a serial litigant that “has brought thousands of cases exactly like this one in courts around the country.” 2019 WL 5459693, at *1. In the majority of the cases, courts have granted applications like the one presented here. Indeed, earlier this month, two judges in this District granted the identical application based on the same evidentiary record presented here. *See Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. Doe*, No. 20-CV-6604 (PMH), 2020 WL 6151519 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 20, 2020); *Strike 3 Holdings, LLC v. Doe*, No. 20-CV-7923 (LJL), 2020 WL 5992346 (S.D.N.Y. Oct. 9, 2020).

been incorporated by reference herein) with the subpoena along with the attached “Notice to Defendant”;²

2) Verizon will have 60 days from the date of service of the subpoena to serve John Doe with a copy of the subpoena, a copy of this Order (and the October 9, 2019 decision), and a copy of the “Notice to Defendant.” Verizon may serve John Doe using any reasonable means, including written notice sent to his (or her or their) last known address, transmitted either by first-class mail or via overnight service;

3) John Doe shall have 60 days from the date of service of the subpoena to file any motions with this Court contesting the subpoena (including a motion to quash or modify the subpoena), as well as any request to litigate the subpoena anonymously. If he (or she or they) decides to contest the subpoena, he (or she or they) shall at the same time notify Verizon so that it is on notice not to release any of John Doe’s contact information to Strike 3 until the Court rules on any such motions;

4) Verizon shall not turn over John Doe’s identifying information to Strike 3 before the expiration of this 60-day period or before the date the Court rules on any motions, whichever is later. Verizon shall preserve any subpoenaed information pending the resolution of any motion to quash that is filed timely;

² The Court has adopted the “Notice to Defendant” template used in *Strike 3 Holdings*, 2019 WL 340712, at *4–5, as it provides clear and concise instructions to Verizon and the John Doe defendant in a case with the same underlying facts.

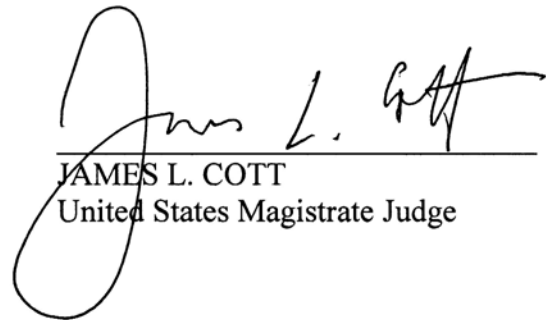
5) If neither John Doe nor Verizon contests the subpoena within the 60-day period, Verizon shall have 10 days to produce the information responsive to the subpoena to Strike 3; and

6) Any information disclosed to Strike 3 in response to the subpoena may be used by Strike 3 solely to protect its rights as set forth in its complaint.

The Clerk is respectfully directed to close Docket Number 6 and mark it as granted.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 30, 2020
New York, New York



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Cott", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "JAMES L. COTT" and "United States Magistrate Judge" is printed.

JAMES L. COTT
United States Magistrate Judge

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

1. You are a defendant in *Strike 3 Holdings, LLC. v. John Doe*, subscriber assigned IP address 173.56.54.232, 20-CV-7919 (LTS) (JLC), a case now pending before the Honorable Laura Taylor Swain, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and the Honorable James L. Cott, United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York.
2. Attached is Judge Cott's Order dated October 30, 2020 (as well as his decision dated October 9, 2019 in a prior case raising the same issues), which sets forth certain deadlines and procedures related to this case.
3. You may hire a lawyer to represent you in this case or you may proceed *pro se* (that is, you may represent yourself without the assistance of a lawyer). If you choose to proceed *pro se*, all communications with the Court should be through the *Pro Se* Intake Unit of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The *Pro Se* Intake Unit is located in Room 105 of the United States Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, N.Y. 10007, and may be reached at (212) 805-0175. You should also consult the Court's website at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/prose>.
4. The plaintiff in this case has filed a lawsuit claiming that you have illegally downloaded and/or distributed movies on your computer.
5. The plaintiff may not know your actual name or address, but it does know the Internet Protocol address ("IP address") of the computer associated with the alleged downloading and/or distributing.
6. The plaintiff has filed a subpoena requesting your identity and contact information from your Internet Service Provider ("ISP").
7. If you do not want your ISP to provide this information to the plaintiff and you believe there is a legal basis for the ISP to withhold the information, you may file a motion to "quash" or "modify" the subpoena. This must be done within 60 days of the date that you receive notice from your ISP that you are a defendant in this case. If you choose to proceed *pro se*, your motion to quash or modify the subpoena should be mailed to the *Pro Se* Office, as described in paragraph 3. You should also inform your ISP that you intend to contest the subpoena so that it does not release your information to the plaintiff.
8. If you move to quash the subpoena or otherwise move to prevent your name from being turned over to the plaintiff, you may proceed anonymously at this time. Nevertheless, if you are representing yourself, you will have to

complete an information card that you can obtain from the *Pro Se* Office of the Court. This information is *solely for use by the Court* and the Court will not provide this information to lawyers for the plaintiff unless and until it determines there is no basis to withhold it. The Court must have this information so that it may communicate with you regarding the case.

9. Even if you do not file a motion to quash or modify the subpoena, you may still proceed in this case anonymously at this time. This means that the Court and the plaintiff will know your identity and contact information, but your identity will not be made public unless and until the Court determines there is no basis to withhold it.
10. If you want to proceed anonymously without filing a motion to quash or modify the subpoena, you (or, if represented, your lawyer) should provide a letter stating that you would like to proceed anonymously in your case. If you choose to proceed *pro se*, your letter should be mailed to the *Pro Se* Office, as described in paragraph 3. This must be done within 60 days of the date that you receive notice from your ISP that you are a defendant in this case. You should identify yourself in your letter by the case in which you are a defendant and your IP address. If you submit this letter, then your identity and contact information will not be revealed to the public unless and until the Court says otherwise.